

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 081650Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3633

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3297

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IT, UR, EGEN

SUBJECT: GROMYKO VISIT TO ITALY

REF: (A) USNATO 1173; (B) ROME 2587

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY BY MFA SOURCE OF ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF GROMYK'S CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN ALDO MORO DURING GROMYKO'S FEBRUARY 18-22 VISIT TO ROME.

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION: DESPITE SOME PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY, A TEN YEAR "FRAMEWORK" ACCORD ON ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WAS NOT RPT NOT SIGNED. THE AGREEMENT WAS DRAFTED AND INITIALED IN APRIL 1973 WHEN IT WAS DECIDED TO DELAY
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SIGNATURE PENDING A SUITABLE HIGH LEVEL VISIT. THE GOI EXPECTED

SIGNATURE DURING GROMYKO VISIT BUT AT LAST MOMENT GROMYKO ASKED THAT THE SIGNING BE DEFERRED TO LATER THIS YEAR WHEN BREZHNEV EXPECTED TO COME TO ROME (NOTE: THE EXACT DATE FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT HAS NOT BEEN SET). GROMYKO AND MORO DID, HOWEVER, SIGN A MORE NARROW SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. (EMBASSY WILL POUCH TEXT WHEN AVAILABLE).

3. EEC - COMECON: GROMYKO EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE EEC HAD NOT RESPONDED WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM TO CEMA OVERTURES LAST YEAR FOR BLOC TO BLOC ECONOMIC DIALOGUE. MORO POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS "A COMMUNITY MATTER" IN WHICH ITALY IS MERELY ONE MEMBER.

4. ENERGY: IN RESPONSE TO GROMYKO'S CRITICISM OF THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE (PARA 3 REF A) MORO TOLD GROMYKO THAT ITALY AGREES THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION ON ENERGY PROBLEMS. THE GOI, ACCORDING TO MORO, LOOKED UPON THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AS ONLY A PRELUDE TO FUTURE, AND MORE LENGTHY, DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH OIL PRODUCING NATIONS WOULD PARTICIPATE. MORO REITERATED THAT ITALY HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE ALGERIAN PROPOSAL THAT FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY TAKE PLACE IN THE UN FORUM PROVIDED THAT THERE ARE SUITABLE "GROUND RULES" TO ENSURE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE MEANINGFUL. MORO DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE LAST POINT.

5. THE TALKS DID NOT TOUCH ON ITALY'S FAILURE TO BUY MORE FINISHED PRODUCTS (INSTEAD OF PRIMARILY RAW MATERIALS) FROM THE USSR NOR ON ITALY'S FAILURE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF A SOVIET LINE OF CREDIT FOR ITALIAN PURCHASES OF PRODUCTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEZZOGIORNO. ALTHOUGH THE COMPOSITION OF SOVIET-ITALIAN TRADE IS A MAIN POINT OF FRICTION IN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, MFA OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE SOVIETS AVOIDED THE SUBJECT PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE YEARLY SOVIET-ITALIAN MIXED ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN MOSCOW IN WHICH IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSED. VOLPE

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